

Page 1, between the Title and line 1, insert the following heading and subheading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention--;

Page 1, above the paragraph beginning at line 6, insert the following subheading:

--2. Discussion of Prior Art--.

Page 3, above the paragraph beginning at line 2, insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 5, above the paragraph beginning at line 10, insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Page 7, above the paragraph beginning at line 15, insert the following heading:

--DETAILED DISCUSSION OF EMBODIMENTS--.

Page 27, substitute the paragraph beginning at line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Complete System

Using two gratings of the type described in this invention a complete system for illumination and reading from a multi-layer optical data storage medium, with no moving parts and automatic spherical aberration correction can be described. The system is shown schematically in Figure 23. Light from the source 13 passes through a grating 4b of the type described in the paragraph above (and Figure 18), which produces multiple

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on-axis, spherical aberration corrected foci corresponding to the different data layers 5, 6 and 7. Light reflected from the data layers passes through a grating 4a of the type shown in Figure 15c with spherical aberration correction, which produces spatially separated images of the different data layers on plane B. It is well known that a polarisation sensitive beamsplitter 14 and polarisation rotating plates can be used to minimise losses in such a system. Numeral 1 is used generally to designate an optical system.--

Page 28, substitute the paragraph beginning at line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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In such a system the terms "object plane" and "image plane" can be confusing: layers 5, 6 and 7 are "image planes" according to the invention with respect to an "object plane" containing illumination source 13 and are "object planes" with respect to "image plane" B. For convenience we say that the "image planes" of one apparatus according to the invention are coincident with the "object planes" of the other.

Page 28, substitute the paragraph beginning at line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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--Other embodiments of the complete system will be obvious to the skilled person: for example the illumination source 13, grating 4b and associated optical system 1 could be located on the same axis as the imaging plane B and grating 4a, located on the other side of 'object' planes 5, 6 and 7. In such an embodiment, planes 5, 6 and 7 are illuminated in transmission.--